

STATE OF COLORADO

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Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK BROADCAST

MESSAGE: 06/04/2013 16:00

FROM: CO-CDPHE

SUBJECT: HAN Update - Hepatitis A Infections Associated with Frozen Berry Mix Consumption

RECIPIENTS: Local Public Health Agencies, Emergency Departments, Infection Control Practitioners, Infectious Disease Physicians, Clinical Laboratories

RECIPIENT INSTRUCTIONS: Local Public Health Agencies -- please forward this HAN in its entirety on to **health care providers** and **pharmacies (as much as possible)** in your jurisdiction. Health Care Providers -- please distribute widely in your office.

This message can also be found on www.satool.org/group/cohan/home.

Health UPDATE for Colorado Health Care Providers

June 4, 2013

UPDATE: Hepatitis A Infections Associated with Frozen Berry Mix Consumption

******Health care providers: Please distribute widely in your office******

KEY POINTS:

- This UPDATE provides updated information to the HAN Alert that was distributed on Friday, May 31, 2013. The following information and clarification is included (updates are highlighted within this document):
 - **Outbreak update:**
 - As of June 4, 2013, multiple western states continue to investigate a hepatitis A outbreak associated with frozen berry mix consumption. In Colorado, 12 cases are under investigation. It is likely the case count will continue to increase.
 - On June 3, 2013, Townsend Farms Inc. announced that it has voluntarily recalled certain lots of its frozen Organic Antioxidant Blend because it has the potential to be contaminated with hepatitis A virus. This product was sold at Costco stores under the product name **Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend – 3 pound bags**, and Harris Teeter stores under the product name **Harris Teeter Organic Antioxidant Berry Blend - 10 ounce bags** (Harris Teeter stores are located in east coast states).
 - **Regarding post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP):**
 - The recommendation for using hepatitis A vaccine for PEP has been expanded to include persons aged 6 months and older (rather than 12 months and older). Infants between 6 months and 12 months of age who receive a single dose of single antigen hepatitis A vaccine for PEP will still require the routine 2 dose series of hepatitis A vaccine starting at 12 months of age or greater if long term immunity is desired.
 - The efficacy of combined hepatitis A virus / hepatitis B virus vaccine (e.g., Twinrix) for PEP has not been evaluated, so single antigen hepatitis A vaccine is recommended.
 - Pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers may be given the hepatitis A vaccine for PEP.
 - **Regarding hepatitis A testing:**
 - Testing is **not recommended** for asymptomatic persons, EVEN IF THEY CONSUMED THE IMPLICATED PRODUCTS, as false-positive hepatitis A IgM antibody results commonly occur.
- Suspect cases of hepatitis A should be reported to the state or local public health department immediately (CDPHE can be reached at 303-692-2700 during business hours or 303-370-9395 after hours).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- **UPDATE - Current Situation:** The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), Colorado local public health agencies, and other state health departments are working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to investigate an outbreak of hepatitis A infections.
 - As of June 4, 2013, multiple western states continue to investigate a hepatitis A outbreak associated with frozen berry mix consumption.
 - In Colorado, 12 cases are under investigation in the following eight counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Clear Creek, Douglas, Eagle, El Paso, and Jefferson.
 - On June 3, 2013, Townsend Farms Inc. of Fairview, Oregon, announced that it has voluntarily recalled certain lots of its frozen Organic Antioxidant Blend because it has the potential to be contaminated with hepatitis A virus. This product was sold at Costco stores under the product name **Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend – 3 pound bags**, and Harris Teeter stores under the product name **Harris Teeter Organic Antioxidant Berry Blend - 10 ounce bags** (Harris Teeter stores are located in east coast states). These products contain a mixture of cherries, blueberries, pomegranate seeds, raspberries, and strawberries. At this point, the pomegranate seeds, which were processed in Turkey, are being investigated further. No other Townsend Farms products, frozen or fresh, are covered by the voluntary recall.
 - The voluntary recall notice, including lot numbers of implicated products and product pictures, can be found on the FDA website: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm355166.htm>
 - Because this investigation is ongoing, the recommendations within this Health Alert should be followed regardless of the purchase date and lot number of implicated products that persons may have consumed or have in their possession.
 - Due to the long incubation period of hepatitis A virus, it is expected that the number of cases associated with this outbreak will increase.
- **Information about Hepatitis A:** Hepatitis A infection is caused by the hepatitis A virus.
 - **Incubation period:** 15-50 days, with an average of 28 days.
 - **Signs and symptoms:** Acute onset of fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, clay-colored stool, diarrhea, joint pain, jaundice.
 - Infected young children typically have mild illness or are asymptomatic.
 - Infected older children and adults are typically symptomatic and >70% have jaundice.
 - **Duration of illness:** Usually less than 2 months, although 10%-15% of symptomatic persons have prolonged or relapsing disease for up to 6 months.
 - **Transmission:** Infected persons shed the virus in their stool 2 weeks prior to the onset of symptoms until up to 10 days after jaundice or symptom onset.
 - Person-to-person transmission occurs through the fecal-oral route.
 - Common-source outbreaks and sporadic cases can occur from ingestion of fecally contaminated food or water.
 - **Diagnosis:** Serological test for IgM antibody to hepatitis A virus in persons with compatible signs and symptoms. Additional diagnostic information can be found on the next page of this alert.
 - **Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP):** Persons who may have been exposed to hepatitis A virus and have never received hepatitis A vaccine and do not have a previous history of hepatitis A infection can receive PEP within 14 days of the exposure to possibly prevent infection. PEP consists of a single dose of single antigen hepatitis A vaccine or immune globulin (IG). PEP is not effective if received greater than 14 days after exposure. More details about PEP can be found on the next page of this alert.
 - **Disease control considerations:** Persons with suspected or confirmed hepatitis A infection should be advised not to handle or prepare food for others. Cases who are foodhandlers (such as at a restaurant) or work in health care settings should be excluded from work for seven days after onset of jaundice.
 - **Additional information about hepatitis A can be found on CDC's website:**
<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HAV/index.htm>

RECOMMENDATIONS / GUIDANCE:

- **Hepatitis A testing and diagnosis:**

- Health care providers are encouraged to consider and test for hepatitis A in patients who have signs and symptoms consistent with hepatitis A (i.e., acute onset of jaundice, abdominal pain, fever, nausea, fatigue, loss of appetite, dark urine, diarrhea), especially if they have a history of exposure to **Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend or Harris Teeter Organic Antioxidant Berry Blend frozen berry mix.**
- For symptomatic persons, health care providers should order serologic tests for hepatitis A virus IgM antibody, often included as part of an acute hepatitis panel. This test is available at commercial clinical laboratories. In addition to serologic tests for hepatitis A virus, health care providers should order a liver function panel.
- Testing is **not recommended** for asymptomatic persons, **EVEN IF THEY CONSUMED THE IMPLICATED PRODUCTS**, as false-positive hepatitis A IgM antibody results commonly occur if testing is done in persons who are unlikely to have disease.

- **Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP):** Public health is making the following PEP recommendations for the current outbreak situation. These recommendations are slightly different than the standard CDC hepatitis A PEP recommendations because there is currently a shortage of immune globulin. To assist health care providers in determining if PEP is needed, a screening form and flow chart is included on pages 5 and 6 of this alert.

- **PEP is recommended for persons who meet all of the following criteria:**
 - The person ate **Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend or Harris Teeter Organic Antioxidant Berry Blend frozen berry mix.**
 - The person ate the berries within the last 14 days.
 - The person does not have a previous history of hepatitis A diagnosis or hepatitis A vaccination. At least one dose of hepatitis A vaccine, at least one month before exposure, is considered protected against hepatitis A.
 - The person has not had jaundice (yellow skin or eyes) or dark urine (like tea or cola) within the last two months (these persons should be evaluated for hepatitis A infection).
- **PEP using hepatitis A vaccine:**
 - A single dose of single antigen hepatitis A vaccine is recommend for persons **aged 6 months and older** who do not have a severe immune compromising condition, severe or chronic liver disease, or other contraindications to vaccination. **The efficacy of combined hepatitis A virus / hepatitis B virus vaccine (e.g. Twinrix) for PEP has not been evaluated.**
 - **Special considerations for infants:** Infants between 6 months and 12 months of age who receive a single dose of single antigen hepatitis A vaccine for post-exposure prophylaxis will still require the routine 2 dose series of hepatitis A vaccine starting at 12 months of age or greater if long-term immunity is desired.
 - **Pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers:** Pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers may be given the hepatitis A vaccine for PEP. Because the hepatitis vaccine is produced from inactivated virus, the theoretical risk to the fetus is low; neither inactivated or live-virus vaccines administered to lactating women affect the safety of breastfeeding for women or their infants.
 - If the health care provider does not have hepatitis A vaccine available, patients can be referred to the local public health agency in the county where they reside. Some pharmacies and travel clinics may also have hepatitis A vaccine available (such as Walgreens, Safeway, Take Care Clinics, **King Soopers, Costco**, and A Little Clinic).
 - Contact information for Colorado local public health agencies can be found at: <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?c=Page&childpagename=CDPHE-Main%2FCBONLayout&cid=1251588365684&pagename=CBONWrapper>
 - **Vaccine Dosage:** Hepatitis A dosage information can be found on the tables on the next page of this alert. For the purpose of PEP, only one dose is needed. For long term immunity, a second dose is recommended 6 to 12 months following the first dose.
 - **Vaccine Contraindications:**
 - Severe allergy to vaccine component or following prior dose. Both vaccines contain aluminum. Havrix contains the preservative 2-phenoxyethanol.
 - Moderate or severe acute illness, at the health care provider's discretion.
 - **Vaccine Adverse Events:**
 - Injection site complaints (i.e., pain, redness, swelling) – 20% - 50% of recipients.
 - Systemic reactions uncommon – less than 10% of recipients.

Recommended Doses of Havrix® Hepatitis A Vaccine					
Group	Age	Dose (EL.U.)	Volume	No. Doses	Schedule*
Children and Adolescents	1–18 years	720	0.5mL	2	0, 6–12
Adults	≥19 years	1,440	1.0 mL	2	0, 6–12

Recommended Doses of VAQTA® Hepatitis A Vaccine					
Group	Age	Dose (U)	Volume	No. Doses	Schedule*
Children and Adolescents	1–18 years	25	0.5mL	2	0, 6–18
Adults	≥19 years	50	1.0 mL	2	0, 6–18

*Months: 0 represents timing of the initial dose; subsequent number(s) represent months after the initial dose.

- **PEP using immune globulin (IG):** There is currently a shortage of IG. Select local public health agencies in Colorado have been provided with the very limited amount of IG that is currently available. Patients who need IG should be referred to the local public health agency in the county where they reside. Contact information for Colorado local public health agencies can be found at this website: <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?c=Page&childpagename=CDPHE-Main%2FCBONLayout&cid=1251588365684&pagename=CBONWrapper>
 - A dose of IG is recommended for the following persons:
 - Persons less than 6 months of age
 - Severely immunocompromised persons
 - Persons with severe or chronic liver disease
 - Persons with other contraindications to vaccination
 - IG should be given to any pediatric patient regardless of age who is at high risk for severe hepatitis A disease, including those who are immunocompromised or have severe or chronic liver disease.
 - If IG is not immediately available, health care providers should consider administering hepatitis A vaccine.
- **Reporting suspect cases to public health:** Hepatitis A is a 24-hour reportable condition in Colorado. Health care providers should report suspect cases of hepatitis A promptly to CDPHE (303-692-2700 during business hours, or 303-370-9395 after hours; secure FAX 303-782-0338) or your local public health agency.
- **Recommendations for the general public:**
 - People may still have **Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend or Harris Teeter Organic Antioxidant Berry Blend frozen berry mix** in their freezers. These berries should not be consumed and should be disposed of in the trash.
 - People who ate **Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend or Harris Teeter Organic Antioxidant Berry Blend frozen berry mix** in the past 14 days should contact their health care provider to discuss the need for hepatitis A vaccine or immune globulin. If a person does not have a health care provider, they should contact their local public health agency.
 - Persons who have consumed **Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend or Harris Teeter Organic Antioxidant Berry Blend frozen berry mix** greater than 14 days ago should watch for signs and symptoms consistent with hepatitis A infection. In this situation, hepatitis A vaccine or immune globulin will not be protective against disease.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- **General information about hepatitis A - CDC website:** <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HAV/index.htm>
- **For the General Public: Information about hepatitis A and the current outbreak:**
Colorado Health Emergency Line for Public Information (CO-HELP) 1-877-462-2911
- **For Health Care Providers:** Questions about the current outbreak or post-exposure prophylaxis guidelines: CDPHE Communicable Disease Epidemiology Section – 303-692-2700 or your local public health agency;
Questions about hepatitis A vaccine: CDPHE Immunization Program - Nicole Ortiz 303-692-2334



**Screening Tool for Hepatitis A Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Following Exposure to
Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend OR Harris Teeter Organic Antioxidant Berry Blend
frozen berries**

TO BE COMPLETED BY MEDICAL OFFICE / PUBLIC HEALTH SCREENING STAFF

Name		
Date of Birth	Age	Sex
Address		
City/State/Zip		
Phone/Home	Phone/Cell	

Exposure:

Did you eat Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend frozen berries OR Harris Teeter Organic Antioxidant Berry Blend frozen berries? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

If yes, did you eat any of them in the last 14 days? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

If person consumed the berries but not within the past 14 days, s/he will not be eligible for PEP. Counsel person on symptoms of hepatitis A and ask to contact provider if they develop symptoms. Discontinue screening and do not administer PEP.

Immunity:

Have you ever been diagnosed with hepatitis A?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

Have you ever received the hepatitis A vaccine?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

If yes: When? _____

How many doses? ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ Not sure

Have you received an immune globulin (IG or gamma globulin) shot in the last 3 months?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

If yes: When? _____

If person said "yes" to any of the above immunity questions, s/he will NOT need PEP. A previous history of hepatitis A diagnosis or hepatitis A vaccination (at least one dose of hepatitis A vaccine, at least one month before exposure, is considered protected against hepatitis A) . Discontinue screening and do not administer PEP.

Recent illness:

During the past two months have you had:

Dark urine (like tea or coca-cola)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

Yellow skin or eyes

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

If person said yes to these symptoms questions, s/he should be evaluated by health care provider to determine if he possibly has hepatitis A before administering prophylaxis. If jaundice and/or dark urine, consider ordering liver function panel and acute hepatitis panel (including hepatitis A IgM). Suspect Hepatitis A cases should be reported to CDPHE (303-692-2700) or local public health within 24-hours. Suspect Hepatitis A cases should be counseled to stay home from work if they work in high risk occupations (food service, healthcare, or childcare) and not prepare food for anyone.

Eligibility for prophylaxis: A person is eligible for PEP (vaccine or IG as appropriate) if all of the following criteria are met:

1. The person ate Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend frozen berries OR Harris Teeter Organic Antioxidant Berry Blend frozen berries.
2. The person ate the berries within the last 14 days.
3. The person does not have a previous history of hepatitis A diagnosis or hepatitis A vaccination. At least one dose of hepatitis A vaccine, at least one month before exposure, is considered protected against hepatitis A.
4. The person has not had jaundice (yellow skin or eyes) or dark urine (like tea or cola) within the last two months.

Eligible for prophylaxis: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If eligible for prophylaxis, administer one dose of single antigen hepatitis A vaccine (NOT Twinrix) to persons at least 6 months of age. Pregnant or breastfeeding women can receive vaccine. IG should be reserved for the following persons: under 6 months of age; diagnosed with severe or chronic liver disease; severely immune compromised; or has other contraindications to receiving vaccine.

Prophylaxis given: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, type given: ☐ IG [Patient Weight: _____ Dose: _____]

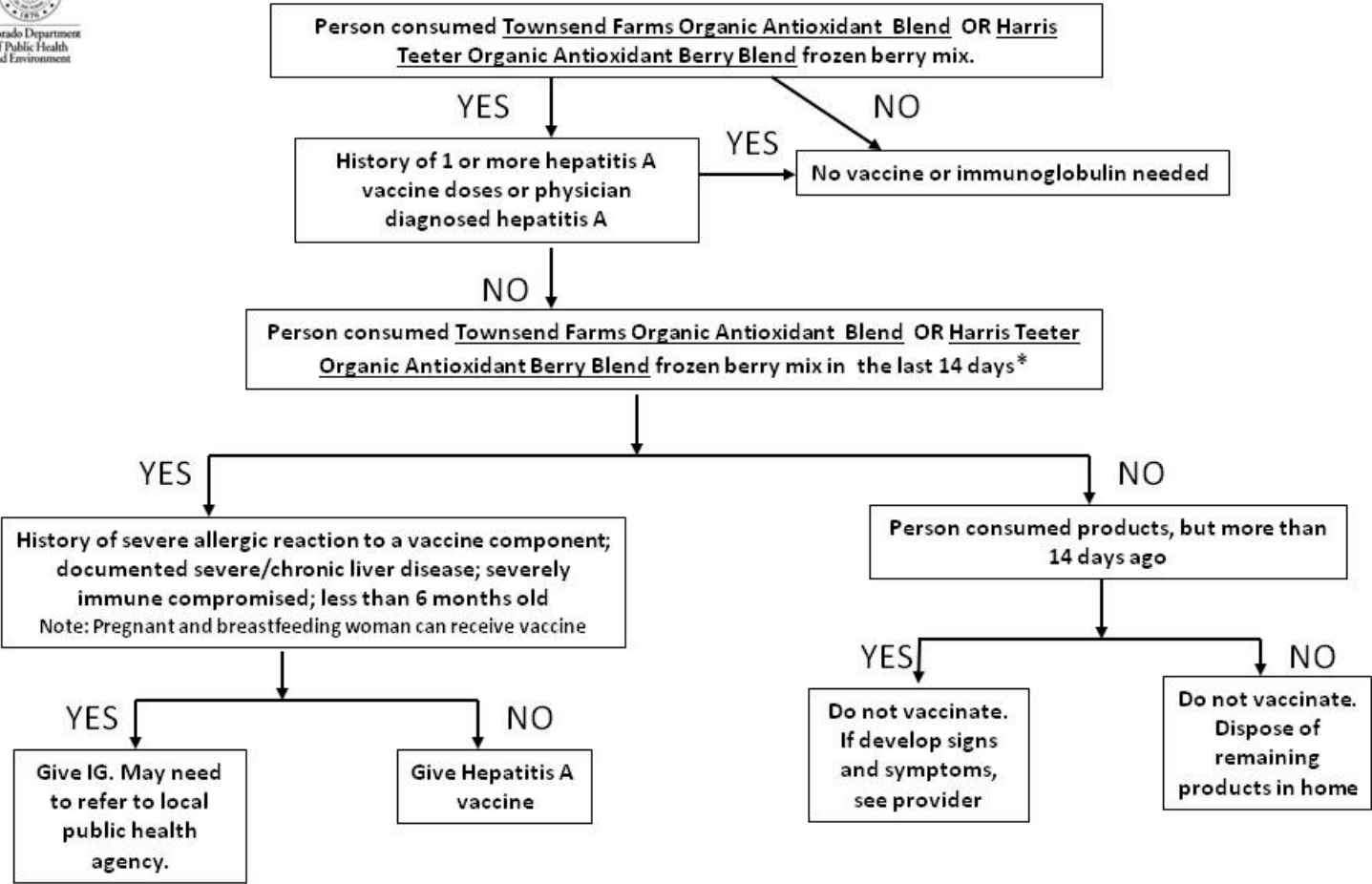
☐ adult vaccine ☐ pediatric vaccine

Date given: _____ Injection Site: _____ Lot Number: _____

Administered by: _____ Clinic Name: _____

Please return completed form to CDPHE at 303-782-0338 for data collection.

HEPATITIS A POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PEP) ALGORITHM for persons exposed to Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend OR Harris Teeter Organic Antioxidant Berry Blend frozen berries



*Example: If the person comes in on Saturday, June 1st, product consumption needs to have occurred Sunday, May 19th or later.

5/31/13